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Board of Supervisors Proclaims National HIV Testing Day

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today approved a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas proclaiming June 27, National HIV Testing Day in Los Angeles County.

On the national day of HIV awareness, local residents, community stakeholders, faith-based groups, elected officials, and county employees will mobilize to encourage individuals to test themselves for infection of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

In Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' district, a newly dedicated mobile testing van, called "The Health Spot" will travel through high-risk areas to provide screenings and educational information as well as to distribute condoms.

"Despite decades of advances in education and medicine, HIV infection continues as a vexing public health crisis in many communities in my district" said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "Monday, June 27 will be a day of awareness, knowledge, engagement, and empowerment."

While comprising 10% of Los Angeles County's population, African Americans account for 24% of confirmed HIV and AIDS cases. Latinos in Los Angeles County comprised 23% of those infected with HIV as of 2009, despite being 15% of the County population.

In partnership with the National Association of People with AIDS, the National HIV Testing Day seeks to encourage people to get tested and receive counseling which is a critical first step.

Nearly 90,000 people in California have contracted and died from AIDS since it was first recognized as an epidemic in 1981, 31,000 of them in Los Angeles County.

To learn more about HIV/ AIDS or find testing sites and events happening locally in the 2nd District and around Los Angeles County please visit http://erasedoubt.org or call 1-800-367-AIDS (2437) or visit Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' website at: http://ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov

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